

### **CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

If any extension of time for this response is required, applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefore. Please charge the required Petition fee to Deposit Account No. 50-3024.

### **ADDITIONAL FEE**

Please charge any insufficiency of fees or credit any excess to our Deposit Account No. 50-3024.

### **REMARKS**

Examiner Felten is thanked for the courtesies extended during a personal interview with the Applicant and the undersigned on September 8, 2004 at which time proposed amendments to the claims were discussed. He is similarly thanked for his courtesies during a telephonic interview with the Applicant held on September 17, 2004, at which time agreement was reached as to allowable claim language that was proposed to the Applicant.

Applicant, by this Amendment, has amended the claims in accordance with the agreement reached during the interview in order to place the Application in condition for allowance.

Of the previously presented claims 31-101 and 166-228, claims 31, 33, 34, 36, 44, 166, 168, 169, 171, 172, 174, 175, 177, 178, 180, 181, 183, 184, 186, 187, 189, 190, 192, 193, 195, 196, 198, 199, 201, 202, 204, 205, 207, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, and 227 have been canceled without prejudice by this Amendment. Applicant reserves the right to file continuation applications directed to the cancelled claims. Claims 32, 35, 37-43, 45-101, 167, 170, 173, 176, 179, 182, 185, 188, 191, 194, 197, 200, 203, 206, 208-214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, and 228 remain in this application of which claims 32, 45, 167, 173, 179, 185, 191, 197, 203, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, and 228 are independent claims. Applicant has amended each of those

independent claims to substitute for the language previously presented therein, the language of step c) as agreed to by the Examiner as being allowable.

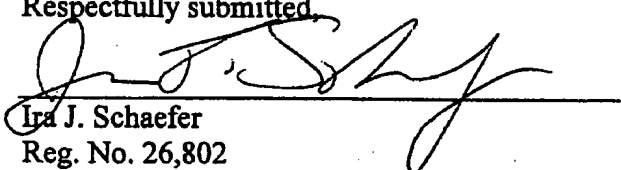
The Applicant has also amended dependent claims 46, 54, 70, and 208 to conform the dependency thereof to the remaining claims.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment and that the Application be passed to issue.

Date: September 21, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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